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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Strasse et al.
I.A. Number : PCT/EP00/03763
I.A. Filing Date: April 26, 2000
Priority Date : May 5, 1999
Title : COSMETIC OR PHARMACEUTICAL
UTILIZATION OF NANOSCALIC METAL SOAPS

Grp./A.U. : Unknown
Examiner : Unknown

Docket No. : H 4132 PCT/US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, DC 20231

ATTN: DO/EO/US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the instant application as follows.

In the Specification:

At page 1, before line 1, insert "--Background of the Invention--".

At page 1, line 4, delete "Prior Art".

Enter a new page 31, submitted herewith, containing the Abstract of the Disclosure.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims.

9. (New) A composition comprising:

(a) an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a cosmetically-active ingredient, a pharmaceutically-active ingredient, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) metal soap nanoparticles having a mean diameter of from about 10 to 300 nm, and wherein the composition possesses enhanced stability, opacity and